

REFLECTION CUES ON THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GEOLOGIST IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

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Geoethics aims at discussing the problems involved in the relations between mankind and the geological environment. Its goals include encouraging critical analyses of the use of natural resources, stressing the immense value of the Geosphere and the need for protecting it, providing correct information about natural risks.

In Italy the debate on the new cultural and social role that the researches in Earth Sciences have acquired in recent years, has concurred to fix some shared points on the topics of the scientific responsibility of the Geosciences researcher.

Geosciences allow a type of reasoning that satisfies many of the epistemological challenges introduced by the complexity: an inductive approach, that assembles and connects fragmented acquaintances and different disciplines around the object "Earth" in a interdisciplinary dimension.

The concepts of "resource", "risk" and "environmental impact", discussed by Earth Sciences, offer the possibility to consider the relation man-environment not only like a problematic relationship, but above all in its development in a "geo-historical" dimension, with important philosophical and epistemological implications.

The special didactic value that the empiricist and constructive-cognitive approaches of the Geosciences allow to develop in the world discovery process by the young people, implies a great educational potentiality of our disciplines. Earth Sciences are in a position to drawing the attention on the territory, widening the cognitive horizons, making clear and univocally defining apparently acquired concepts, with wider comparisons and transverse reflections, regarding the acquaintance and the spreading of the geological landscape.

Therefore, beside the usual analyses of the environmental aspects, of the renewable resources exploitation, of the eco-friendly technologies development, to which the international debate on Geoethics dedicates wide space for a long time, I'd like to point out other topics, like the identity of Earth Sciences, the value of the geological acquaintance and the role of service to the community, the problems and the responsibilities in the scientific spreading, in the didactics and how the enjoyment of the geological culture happens, the environment valorization by means of the geological knowledge, the perception of the geological heritage as a scientific, cultural, educational and recreational value.

On the base of these reflections, the ethical responsibility of every single researcher in disclosing own scientific discoveries, in taking the appropriated decisions, in organizing ways and times of his teaching, in taking part in critical moments of the planet evolution and in the educational debate, becomes the foundation of his individual and social action, action that must be above disciplinary schemes and beyond theoretical restrictions.